

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of color encoding a computer keyboard, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) selecting, from the set of possible text colors provided by a computer, a subset of text colors for use in documents to be generated from the keyboard;
 - (b) programming selected function keys to generate the selected text colors, each selected function key generating a different selected text color; and
 - (c) color marking each selected function key with a color indicia indicative of the programmed text color of that key
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein color marking each selected function key further comprises color marking each selected function key with a paste-on decal representing the programmed text color.
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3. The method of claim 1 wherein color marking each selected function key further comprises replacing the key cap with another cap having the programming text color.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein color marking each selected function key further comprises overlaying the key with a fitted key cap having the programmed text color.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein programming further comprises programming the twelve keys including the numbers “1” through “0” and “_” and “=”.
6. The method of claim 2, and further comprising the further step of selecting a
5 paste-on decal representing the programmed text color from a preprinted sheet of decals having a subset of the possible set of colors provided by the computer.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a subset of text colors further includes selecting colors from a drop-down screen.
- 10 8. A computer keyboard optimized for generating multi-colored text documents, comprising:
 - (a) a plurality of programmable function keys that have been programmed to change the text color in a document when activated, each of said plurality of keys programmed to a selected color; and
 - 15 (b) color indicia on each function key indicative of the text color generated by the activation of that function key.
9. The keyboard of claim 8 wherein the color indicia is a decal colored to represent the text color generated by the activation of the function key.

10. The keyboard of claim 8 wherein the color indicia is a replacement key colored to represent the text color generated by the activation of the function key.
11. The keyboard of claim 8 wherein the color indicia is a key cap colored to represent the text color generated by the activation of the function key.